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Missouri Exports in 2002 Up Slightly Over Last Year's Sales

Exports rebounded slightly in Missouri last year, as international sales rose by 10.1 percent to nearly \$6.8 billion in 2002, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

The department reviewed information compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau's, Foreign Trade Division. The federal statistics showed that Missouri exports increased from \$6,173,43,220 in 2001 to \$6,790,778,019 in 2002. Missouri was ranked 28th nationally in total export value by the Census Bureau, which bases its statistics on origin of movement of manufactured product.

Vehicles were Missouri's top export commodity in 2002, accounting for nearly 30 percent of total export value. International sales of passenger vehicles increased by 17 percent and sales of motor vehicles for the transportation of goods increased 10 percent. Other leading exports are machinery, chemical products and electrical machinery.

"The Office of International Marketing has built a long-term relationship with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Export Assistance Center in St. Louis, which is helping Missouri companies successfully enter into and expand international business opportunities," said DED Director Joseph L. Driskill. "We must continue to ensure that Missouri companies develop an even greater competitive edge in the global economy as our future economic growth will be dependent upon our ability to penetrate international markets."

Canada and Mexico remained as Missouri's top export destinations, but there were a few changes in the state's top 10 export recipients. Italy, Ireland, Hong Kong and Australia replaced Belgium, Singapore, Brazil and Argentina. All of the top 10 countries increased their amount of Missouri purchases with the exception of Germany (-14.38%) and Australia (-1.96%). In fact, the largest sales gains were to Hong Kong, which increased 47 percent; Sweden with a 94.25 percent increase, primarily for pharmaceuticals, organic chemicals, and electric machinery; and Korea with a 44.19 percent increase. Together, the top 10 export countries account for 79 percent of Missouri's total exports.

Top 10 Missouri Export Destinations – 2002

Country	Export Value	Percent Change from 2001	Country	Export Value	Percent Change from 2001
Canada	\$3.1 billion	23.80	Italy	\$157 million	29.40
Mexico	\$693 million	2.99	Ireland	\$138 million	3.10
United Kingdom	\$336 million	18.26	Hong Kong	\$132 million	47.09
Japan	\$311 million	.25	China	\$130 million	19.77
Germany	\$242 million	-14.38	Australia	\$126 million	-1.96